Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
The Town of North East, MD

PWSID# - 070016

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is the North East Creek and the Little North East Creek. The Leslie WTP is supplied by the North East Creek and the Rolling Mill WTP is supplied by the North East Creek and the Little North East Creek. Customers on the north side of the Amtrak line are supplied by the Leslie WTP and customers on the south side of the Amtrak line are supplied by the Rolling Mill WTP. Occasionally the customers on the south side of the Amtrak line are supplied by the Leslie WTP.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Ron Carter at 410-287-8102. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the North East Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

The Town of North East routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2009. As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, **including bottled** drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does ***not necessarily*** pose a health risk.

Definitions

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations that you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) – a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Detected Contaminants NOT in Violation of the MCL

Following is a list of regulated contaminants that were present in the water system at levels below the maximum allowable level (MCL), which is determined safe by the EPA. These contaminants are shown below, along with the MCL and MCLG for each one detected.

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Date Tested	Level Detected Rolling Mill WTP	Level Detected Leslie WTP	Unit Of Measure-ment	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	5/23/08	.003	.002	ppm	.003	.003	Runoff of herbicide used on row crops.
Barium	6/15/09	.032	0	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	12/31/08	.244*	N/A	ppm	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
DI (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate	10/2/09	.91	.67	ppb	6	0	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.
Gross Alpha	4/16/01	1	1	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta	4/5/07 4/7/08	3 4/5/07	2 4/7/08	pCi/L	50	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
Hexachlorocyclopentadien	10/2/09	0	.019	ppm	.05	.05	Discharge from chemical factories
Lead	12/31/08	.003**	N/A	ppb	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate	12/14/09	1.39	2.31	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	4/7/08	.0001	0	ppm	.05	.05	Residue of banned herbicide
Turbidity***	2009	.29 <0.3 NTU 100% of the time	.28 <0.3 NTU 100% of the time	NTU	TT	N/A	Soil runoff.

Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Date Tested	Level Detected Rolling Mill WTP	Level Detected Leslie WTP	Unit Of Measure-ment	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Bromodichloromethane	9/22/09	9.7	9.2	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of chlorination.
Chloroform	9/22/09	98.3	43.7	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of chlorination.
Dibromochloromethane	9/22/09	.6	.9	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of chlorination.
Nickel	6/15/09	.003	0	ppm	N/A	N/A	
Sodium	6/15/09	18.2	0	ppm	N/A	N/A	

NOTES:

*90% of samples taken for copper analysis were less than the detected level shown. No samples had copper detected at a level greater than the Action Level of 1.3 ppm.

**90% of samples taken for lead analysis were less than the detected level shown. No samples had lead detected at a level greater than the Action Level of 15 ppb.

***Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The Treatment Technique (TT) requires that at least 95% of each month's samples must be below 0.3 NTU.

Detected Contaminants in Violation of the MCL

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Date Tested	Distribution System	Unit Of Measure-ment	MCL	MCLG	Likely source of Contamination
TTHM(Total Trihalomethanes) - Average	2009	96.5	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) – Range	2009	92-101	ppb	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids – Average	2009	88.25	ppb	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids – Range	2009	77-93	ppb	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The presence of some contaminants in drinking water is unavoidable, but we make every effort to keep our water at or below the levels specified by law as being safe for consumption. Our Water Department staff consists of three licensed operators who have a combined experience of more than 34 years between them. Together they have attended more than 100 hours of Continuing Education training in the past year in an effort to keep up-to-date with the latest in water treatment techniques to provide you with the best quality water possible. The provision of quality water is an on-going effort for the Town of North East and its staff, and one we are continuously trying to improve upon.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of North East Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water that the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We at the Town of North East Water Works work around the clock to provide quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call us if you have any questions.

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